313 these into their carrying baskets. They come home loaded and give enough to each one to make a fire under his hammock during the night. [232]

248 Cotton is indispensable to the Caribs for hammocks, for stringing ornaments, and for tying the feathers on their arrows. They also use it to fasten their arrowheads made either of green wood or of the tail of the sting ray, in place of iron. It is to obtain cotton that leads them to fish at the Saints or to catch crabs at Marie-Galante, for they make clearings in those places to grow cotton. You see very few Caribs who do not always carry a small roll of cotton in their baskets. The French ships do not willingly encumber themselves with cotton because of the fear of fire and because it does not load ship well. [280]

283 The women having taken the cotton from its pod and picked out the seeds then put a headless arrowshaft into it. Then they turn the cotton, which thins like carded wool. When it breaks off they attach an end to the arrow. A woman holds the arrow in one hand and in the other holds a spindle which is as long as an arm's length or more. The thread stop is a round object made of tortoise shell and is as wide as the hand with a length of about half a foot measured from the end of the shaft. This end is placed on the ground. The spindle shaft point is pressed against the women's thigh, and she rolls it back and forth with her extended hand up and down the length of her thigh. This is how the Carib women spin thread. [114]

415 A small calabash is cut into two parts and is painted by the women. It is used as a glass or a cup. [439] They cut halves from two calabashes in such a way that one half fits inside the other and forms a box. They pass cords through it and they use them as little chests, as bags, and as knapsacks. [128] They use a big and long calabash as a pot for a drink offered to some visitor, or when a sacrifice is offered. It rests on the longest part and is open on the other side. They draw off water from the opening in this calabash using a smaller one. [198]

231 The Caribs never feed any animals except by necessity or entertainment. If they have roosters it is to wake them up in the morning. If they keep birds it is to draw out their plumes in order to adorn themselves, and they use the other kind to teach their children to fish and hunt. If they keep dogs it is to hunt pigs and agoutis. If they have chickens they would prefer to die rather than to eat them, and

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
ST13 Callinago ST13

THREAD, TWINE, CORDS, AND ROPES

COTTON.—Two varieties, probably indigenous and known respectively from the colors of their leaf stems as "black" and "white" cotton, are to be found close to most of the houses, and attain, since they are always left to themselves, the size of orange or apple trees. Used today only for calking canoes and for stuffing pillows and mattresses, cotton was spun by the Caribs within the memory of most of those now living on the reserve. The native method was shown to me by an old woman. A band of teased cotton wound around the left wrist is spun onto a long stick or spindle by rolling the latter on the right knee. The upper end of the spindle (fuseau) is crooked. A round disk of calabash, through whose center the stick is passed, acts as base for the growing spool of thread.

283 ●

[285 227]

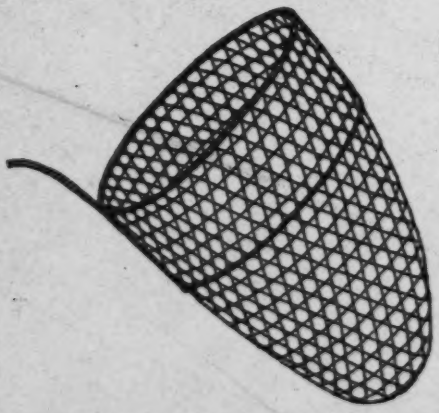

FIGURE 26.—Fish pot or landing net.

LA PITTE (KURUWA, KARATA, SILK GRASS, *Bromelia* sp.).—The leaf—longer than that of the pineapple, and without thorns—is drawn through a noose of maho or other cord attached to a projecting limb. An even pull with both hands on a short round stick over which the leaf is folded disengages the fiber and leaves the green pithy matter in the noose. The "drawn" fiber is next bleached and dried in the sun, and twine spun from it by rolling it on the naked thigh with the flattened palm of the hand (fig. 27)—a downward stroke spinning simultaneously in the required thickness two or as many single ply as are wanted, followed by an upward stroke which unites them in one thread or twine. Any length can be spun thus by the addition of more fiber when the end of one lot is reached. Twine made from la pitte is strong and lasts well in water. When used for fishing line it is strengthened and stiffened by the addition of a little gum from the gommier tree. Thread made for binding the borders of Carib baskets is rubbed with manni to render it more durable. La pitte may be made into multiple-ply cords and bands for carrying loads, tying baskets, etc.

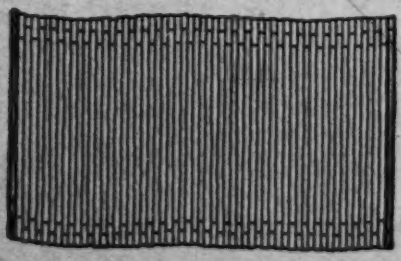

FIGURE 26.—Roll-up mat.

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
ST13 Callinago ST13

283 It would, and doubtless has in the past, serve to weave excellent hammocks.

Langue-boeuf, a species of wild agava (*Agave americana*), is also used in the manufacture of thread and twine. In this case the separation of the fiber necessitates a preliminary soaking or rotting process, as in the case of hemp. Once disengaged, the fiber is submitted to the same processes as *Bromelia*.

Maho (or mahaut) is the name given to a number of trees of different species, whose only common characteristic is the use to which their bark may be put in making ropes and cords. They are: Maho noir (or bois violon, *Guatteria* sp.), maho piment (*Daphnopeis caribbaea*), maho cochon, maho doux, maho figue. Some, such as bois violon, are indigenous, while others, such as the bananalike maho figue, are imported. Strips of the bark from these trees are shredded and twisted—some rudely, to make halters and ropes, others being tressed carefully into as fine a twine as that of *Bromelia* or *Agave*.

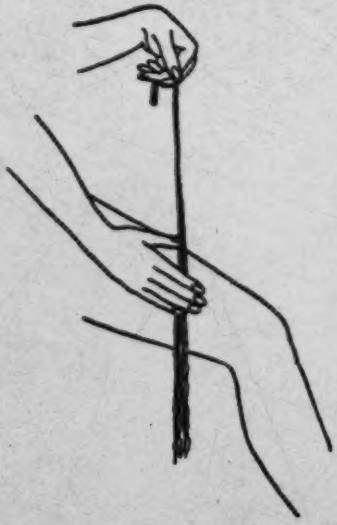

FIGURE 27.—Spinning fiber twine.

Besides the above-mentioned raw materials, all of which require more or less preparation and manufacture, the woods abound in all manner of natural cords and lianas, some as thick as a man's arm, some as fine as cotton yarn. These are put to a number of uses, some, such as mibi (*Stigmatophyllum puberum*), being used for tying palm-leaf or cane-straw thatchings of muinan and karbé, as well as in basketry; while others, such as caapi (species of native ivy), are employed in the catching of crayfish (see below).

FIRE AND LIGHT, GUMS, WAX, RESIN, OILS, AND PIGMENTS

372 The so-called fire drill (fig. 28), with which fire was obtained by revolving a long pointed stick between the palms of the hands, after the manner of a swizzle stick or "lélé," in a groove made in another and softer piece of wood, is remembered, but no longer used.

The Carib tinder box (fig. 29), locally called "briquet" or "coucou du feu" (the coyembouc mentioned by Father Labat as having been used in his day for storing trinkets, etc.), is made from a species of calabash known as "callebasse-boite." Two halves, which may be decorated or plain, are fitted together after the manner of an Easter egg, and contain a "fire stone" of red, white, or black jasper, an old

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
ST13 Callinago ST13

253

[d59-d]

a, Drawing "la pite." b, "La pite" fiber drying. c, d, Spinning the twine.

7: Taylor & Moore E-4, 5 (1930-1937) 1948
ST13 Callinago ST13

slipping up, they may be moistened from time to time; and strips of maho (a 285
name given to the fibrous bark of several widely different species of trees) are introduced across the corners whenever the work is temporarily laid aside.

The mam of the basket's cover is made in the same way, except that its foundation, before being "turned" is tied over the mouth of the container, and the weft strands of its sides built up and tightened around the latter in order to insure a perfect fit.

The Carib basket-maker usually finishes a number of mams (both containers and covers to fit) before starting on their skins. When he is ready to complete a basket, he selects some suitable leaves (see above), removes their midribs, and puts them in the sun to wilt and dry somewhat (without which they would rot in the basket and be worse than useless). Then he adjusts leaf-stem props both diagonally and criss-cross within the mam in order that its sides may remain rigid while the sides of the skin are being built up around it. Layers of wilted leaf are now laid tile-wise over the outside of the mam, up to and over the edges of its mouth, and secured in place by strips of maho which pass around and across the mam in such a way as to admit of ultimate removal. The foundation of the skin (see below) is now tied firmly onto that of its leaf-covered mam, and its sides built up by the introduction of additional wefts which are tightened around the latter. Vertical "posts" consisting of stem segments of roseau *(Gynerium saccharoides)* are woven into the four corners of the container's skin if a panier voyage is being made.

When the mam has been completely enveloped in its skin, the maho bonds are withdrawn, and the basket is ready to be bordé, i. e. given an edging. Two stem-segments of roseau and one of the unseparated lárumą are cut to the length of the basket mouth's circumference for this purpose. According to the size of the basket, the former vary from ½ to 1 cm, the latter from ¼ to ½ cm in breadth. The projecting warp ends of mam and skin alike (they are sometimes, but rarely today, tucked in upon themselves after the manner described by Roth), together with any projecting leaf, are now "shaved" (with a sharp knife or razor blade) even and parallel around the circumference of the mouth. Then the roseau edgings are applied, one around the outside of the skin, the other inside the mam, with the lárumą segment bridging the two in guise of a lid. This edging is now sewn together and onto the basket by a series of reef-knots which pass around its three components and through the border of skin and mam (Figure 285
2). The thread used for this purpose is made from the leaf-fiber of la pite (a 283
wild pineapple), not spun on the leg into twine, as for fishing-line, but passed under the big toe and twisted in single ply. Moreover, this thread is blackened

7: Taylor & Moore E-4, 5 (1930-1937) 1948
ST13 Callinago ST13

285 before use with an unidentified resin (found on the windward beaches during the
283 first three months of the year) called manni, which strengthens and preserves it from decay.

285 The lárumą skins are woven and built up on the same general principles as
531 their mama, except that the reddish brown strands of the former are varied by others of white (obtained by scraping before use) or black (see above), which

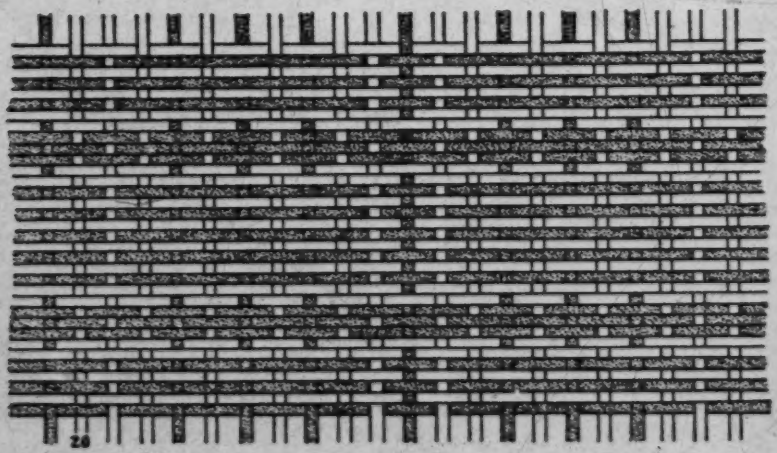

FIG. 3. Checker design (called bariolé) in wicker pattern basketry.

are so arranged as to form a design. This does not necessarily cover the whole basket, but is limited more often to two or more bands running across the top and bottom and around the sides of the basket. Such design vary somewhat with the basket-maker's fancy, but there appears to be at least a basis of tradition behind them. One of the more orthodox, in which the wefts go alternatively over and under each warp element in such a way that the black wefts pass over most of the white warps and under the black, is shown in Figures 3 and 4. The former represents the more usual, rather widely spaced arrangement, while the latter illustrates how the same design shows up in fine work. Its formula is (w equals white; b equals black); warps: 3w, 1b, 1w, 1b, 1w, 1b, 2w, 1b, 2w, 1b, 1w, 1b, 1w, 1b (repeat, and end off with 3w); wefts: 2w, 3b, 2w, 1b, 1w, 1b, 1w, 1b, 1w, 1b, 1w, 1b (repeat). This design is known as bariolé "variagated"; and the white warp which divides it symetrically (twentieth from the right) as the portugais, "Portuguese" (?). Recently, yellow and violet stained la pite fiber thread (see

9: Ober N-5 (1876-1878) 1895
ST13 Callinago ST13

101 The Indians of Guiana to-day, says a very thorough
197 investigator, who published the results of his researches ten years ago,[1] are divided into four branches, as the Warrau, Arawak, Wapiana, and the Carib. "The languages of these four branches are quite distinct from each other; and within the language are dialectic variations. . . A stranger finds it difficult to distinguish, merely from appearances, the different members of the respective tribes.
142 . . . The Arawaks are slightly taller than the Warraus; their bodies, though short and broad, are far better proportioned; skin lighter in color; expression of face brighter and more intelligent. . . . They are the most cleanly of all the Indians. . . . The Caribs are darker; somewhat taller than the Arawaks, bodies better built; having, in appearance and in reality, far greater strength; features coarser,
648 with the appearance of greater power. . . . There is a constant enmity between Caribs and Arawaks. The Arawaks to this day retain a timid dread of the Caribs, who repay the feeling with contempt. . . . The Caribs are the most warlike of all, especially the pure Caribs. . . . They
361 are peculiar among the tribes, in that they occupy no particular district, but are scattered more or less thickly
323 throughout the country. . . . They are the great pottery-makers. . . . The Caribs seem to represent migrations
101 into the country already occupied by the other tribes, and may be contradistinguished as natives and stranger tribes; the three branches of natives being all united by a common feeling of aversion to the Caribs, or strangers. . . . The
283 natives all make their hammocks of the fiber of a palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*) while the Caribs make theirs of *cotton*.
108 . . . The fact that the true, or island Caribs, had two vocabularies, one used by the men, and the other by the women, has long been known." Humboldt alludes to this difference of speech, and it is mentioned in my "Camps in

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[1] "Among the Indians of Guiana," by E. F. Im Thurn. London, 1883.

9: Ober N-5 (1876-1878) 1895
ST13 Callinago ST13

garments, occasionally, and beads. . . . The Guiana Indians still make fire by rubbing two sticks together; they make baskets similar to those now made by the West-Indian Caribs, as well as cassava sieves, *matapies*, or cassava strainers, and other articles of the Indian economy. . . . Cotton is preferred by the Caribs to all other fibers. They still use the *tiki*, or wooden war-club, the only aboriginal weapon now in use. . . . The celebrated ourali poison is made chiefly by a single tribe, the Macusis, and particular Indians. . . . In the shell mounds, the objects found resemble those from the West Indies; and human bones have been found split open, as if for their marrow. Of aboriginal art, as shown in paintings or carvings, there are few traces, the petroglyphs being few and very rude in design and execution. . . . One practice still prevails among the Caribs of which we find no trace in the island: that is *couvade*, or male child-bed, when the man, at parturition, takes to his hammock, where he stays for days, and even weeks (if he be delicate), and is fed on gruel, abstains from smoking, and is comfortably coddled, while the poor woman attends to her hardly-interrupted domestic duties. In conclusion, as to the religion of the Guiana Caribs, it is a pure animism; every Indian believes that he himself, and every human being, consists of two parts, a body and a soul, or spirit; and moreover, that all other objects have the same qualities; the whole Indian world swarms with spirits, good and evil. They do not believe in a spiritual hierarchy, — only in spirits that are, or once were, situated in material bodies of some kind, — and no apotheosis has of these made gods, or a God. . . . The Carib name for God, *Tamosi*, means the Ancient One. . . . As to scientific acquirements, the Indian, now, as in ancient times, is without even the rudiments of scientific thought . . . "

CARIB PETROGLYPHS, IMPLEMENTS, AND POTTERY. Were it not even that we still have evidence of the existence in the Carib area of Indians who dwell here, in the con-

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

GRAMINEAE. Grass Family.

824 **Andropogon bicornis** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1046. 1753.
Anatherum bicorne Beauvois, Ess. Agrost. 128. 1812.
Panache.

A species found from southern Mexico to Brazil and throughout the West Indies, usually on grassy slopes.

[342 352] Panache is employed by the Carib as a second-rate thatching material while the hairs of the raceme are sometimes used to stuff pillows.

Specimen citation: 3166, 3352.

Bambusa vulgaris Schrader ex Wendland, Coll. Pl. 2: 26. t. 47. 1810.
Bambusa sieberi Griesebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 528. 1864.
Common Bamboo. — *kuáma* (« plume », « panache »).

Common bamboo, a native of the Old World, is now widely planted in the tropics of both hemispheres. In Dominica the beautiful arching plumes of this grass are familiar especially along roads and water courses at lower and middle elevations.

[227] [312] Wherever it is grown bamboo has a number of native uses. The Creoles of Dominica construct fishpots from the split stems, and the canes themselves with the septa removed often serve as temporary water pipes.

285 824 The Carib Indians dry the stems indoors and then split them into fine strands which are woven into *sambura*, a kind of round basket with a narrow mouth used for the catch made while fishing from the coastal rocks or in the rivers. Except for its shape the *sambura* is of similar construction (a round radial type) to baskets made of *mibi* (*Anthurium palmatum* and *Monstera pertusa*), liane pomme (*Passiflora laurifolia*), and the like. Bamboo is employed 824 [283] [227] also in fashioning a strong type of garden basket and, as a substitute for cotton thread, in the making of *kali*, the Carib and local name for a kind of fishpot or landing net used to catch flying fish.

Specimen citation: 174.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X 824

CYPERACEAE. Sedge Family.

Dichromena ciliata Vahl, Enum. 2: 240. 1805.

Rynchospora pura Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 577. 1864.

Z'Herbes Paillasse, Zeb Paillasse.

A common and attractive sedge of the West Indies and continental tropical America. In Dominica the plant may be found in grassy places at lower and middle elevations.

[352] The whole plant is dried by the Carib and is then used as a stuffing for mattresses.

Specimen citation: 3214

PALMAE. Palm Family.

Acrocomia aculeata (Jacquin) Loddiges ex Martius, Hist. Nat. Palm. 3: 286. 1843.

Acrocomia lasiospatha Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 521. 1864, in part, non Martius.

Acrocomia sclerocarpa Duss, Fl. Phan. Ant. Franc. 489. 1897, non Martius.

Glou-glou. — *iawdia*[1] (cf. Tupi *yawari*).

The glou-glou palm is the type species of the genus and as far as is known occurs only on low drier coastal areas on Dominica and Martinique.

[262 223] The small edible fruits possess a coconut-like pulp. Until recently a sort of wine was made by tapping the young inflorescence shoot («heart») near the base and allowing the collected juice to ferment. Breton (7) records an early use of the sharp [283] spines of *iawdia*: «... the spines, long as the finger, are used by the Carib in cording cotton».

Specimen citation: 3133.

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[1] This should not be confused with a montane palm, *Euterpe globosa* Gaertn., whose patois name, yanla or Ganla, seems to stem from this Carib name for the glou-glou palm.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Cocos nucifera Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1188. 1753.
Coconut Palm. — **palmes** (from Spanish *palma*).

The coconut palm is grown on all tropical coasts. Its center of origin is controversial although the plant is probably native to the Old World. Hundreds of uses are recorded for various parts of this plant, which is considered the most valuable of all palms. Du Tertre (15) records the species as established in the French Antilles in the seventeenth century.

Coconuts are an important product of Dominica and several estates have been devoted to their culture. The Creoles utilize the green «jelly nuts» as a refreshing drink and the flesh of the mature fruits for food and oil. The husks supply a fiber, coir, employed for local cordage.

Coconuts are cultivated by the Island Caribs who use the large leaves for thatch, and the endosperm as a source of food and oil. The latter is obtained by grating and boiling the flesh of the nuts.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Euterpe dominicana L. H. Bailey, Gent. Herb. 4: 375. 1940.
Palmiste, Palmiste franc, Manicol. — **wáse**.

A tall slender palm endemic to Dominica and common throughout moist mountain forests, chiefly at middle elevations.

Often felled by Caribs and other woodsmen for the sake of the palatable coeur-palmiste («cabbage» or «heart») which they extract from the cylindrical crown of the tree, and which is eaten either raw or boiled. The leaves of young specimens, folded and plaited, are used for thatch. Ridge-caps (or covers) for dwellings are sometimes made from the wood of this palm by merely splitting the trunk in two. The rotted trunk serves as a refuge for the fat white edible grub (**séisèbe** [11]) of the palm beetle (*Calandra palmarum* Fabric.). The reddish colored prop-roots (racines palmiste) of this palm are cut, peeled and scraped, then split into two or three strands and utilized for the manufacture of shoulder carry-alls (**tidla**, literally «a basketry lattice or trellis-work»). The making of palm wine from this species has been

[11] Although the grub of the palm beetle is more frequent in this palm of the mountain forests, it also lives in the rotten bases of the coastal **cibaho** (*Rhizococcus amarus*). Jacquin (33) also records the roasting of this «delicious» insect morsel, which is often eaten raw or roasted by the modern Carib.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

The tubers of *X. Atroviridens* Koch & Bouché and *X. violaceum* Schott constitute one of the staple starchy foods of Dominica while the young leaves of *X. braziliense* (Desr.) Engl. are one of the prime ingredients of the famed «calalu» soup, a popular Creole dish.

The Caribs cultivate tanias both as a food and green. When prepared as a green the «heart» (the unopened leaves) is boiled and eaten. Other authors (7) (15) mention a red-ribbed leaf variety, «chou poivré», whose juice the Caribs rubbed on themselves as a charm when going to war. Leaves of the red-ribbed variety, known today as chou froidure (pronounced «chou fwedi»), are made into an infusion used against chills; and the same variety is an ingredient in another tea discussed under *Myrcia citrifolia*.

Specimen citation: 2466.

BROMELIACEAE. PINEAPPLE FAMILY.

Ananas comosus (Linnaeus) Merrill, Interpr. Rumph. Amb. 133. 1917.

Ananas sativus Schultes f. ex. R. & S. Syst. 7: 1263. 1830.

Ananas ananas Cockerell, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 19: 776. 1897.

Ananas, Pineapple. — *ddiana* («prickly»); *kwéna* (fiber-yielding variety).

A native of Brazil, the pineapple has been widely cultivated for its fruits in the tropics and subtropics of both the New and the Old World. Strong white fibers, which are utilized for cloth in various parts of the world, are obtained from the leaves (22). The Barama River Caribs make an alcoholic drink from the grated pulp. First mention of the pineapple is by Peter MARTYR who records its discovery by Columbus on Guadeloupe in 1493 (21).

Several types are cultivated by the Caribs of Dominica. The fruit is eaten; a fermented beverage is made from the peeled skins steeped in water; while the fruit itself, as well as this drink, is considered to be good for urinary complaints. The small, green, immature fruit or its juice is, on the other hand, well known to these aborigines as an abortive agent.

La pite (Carib: *kwéna*[10]), an important cultivated fiber plant

[10] Dr. L. B. Smith has determined that la pite of Dominica is not a species of *Bromelia* as was at first thought but actually a species of *Ananas*, most

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824^X
283

of the Dominica Caribs, is included here. The plant is to be found growing in most Carib dooryard gardens. Leaves of la pite are split for half their length. Then a strong cord attached at convenient height to a tree is twisted into a loop around one of the split segments and pulled tight. The other end of the leaf is wound around a short thick stick held with both hands. A strong steady tug on the latter disengages the leaf fiber. The other segment is treated in like manner, and finally the unsplit half of the leaf as a whole (the disengaged fiber being now used to wrap around the stick). After being dried in the sun the strong white fiber (up to four feet long) is spun on the leg or thigh into any thickness of fishing line that is required. Most of it is twine (i. e. 2-ply) but 3 and even 5-ply are sometimes made. La pite is used also to make thread which is always strengthened before use by reuning with *mani* (see discussion of *mani* under *Symphonia globulifera*). Such thread is employed for sewing the edging of lavouman (*Ischnosiphon Arouma*) baskets, and for making the little cords worn by father and new-born child as a protective charm to ensure the latter from suffering possible ill consequences of strenuous work undertaken by the father.

[951
846]

Specimen citation: 161 (T), 3306. Both specimens represent la pite.

Bromélia karatas Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 285. 1753.
Pingouin, Karatas. — *karáara* (w).

824^X
262

Pingouin is known from the Antilles and occurs on the continent from Mexico to Colombia and Brazil. The plant occurs in Dominica chiefly at lower elevations in the drier thickets of the windward coast.

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likely a specially grown fibrous form of edible *Ananas comosus*. Plants of la pite differ from the common pineapple in having longer leaves with fewer and more widely spaced marginal prickles; moreover the fruit is small (no larger than one's fist) and is said to be indigestible. Compared with the fibers of la pite those contained in the leaves of the ordinary pineapple are considered by the Caribs very weak and therefore cannot be prepared for twine. Pittier (40) however states that the fibers of pineapple leaves are «fine, strong, and of great value». The Krasa grass, grown by the Barama River Caribs of Guiana, is possibly identical with la pite. Krasa grass is a source of fiber used in the manufacture of bow strings, fish lines, and decorative ligatures for the legs.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 X

AMARYLLIDACEAE. AMARYLLIS FAMILY.

Furcraea tuberosa Aiton filius, Hort. Kew ed. 2, 2: 303. 1811 Langue Boeuf [1].

A large agave-like, succulent herb which is found in the West Indies from Hispaniola to Grenada. In Dominica it grows most commonly at lower elevations in thickets or on dry coastal cliffs.

The Caribs use the leaf fibers of langue boeuf which are [293] obtained by retting with running water for several days. After this softening bath the fibers are extracted by beating the leaves on a plank with a wooden mallet, and during the process water is used to wash away the vegetable matter. In addition the root is emulsified to make a « tea » which is drunk for « echauffement » [278] (gonorrhea).

Specimen citation: 3403.

Pancratium speciosum Linnaeus f. ex Salisbury, Act. Soc. Linn. Lond. 2: 73. t. 12. 1794.

Pancratium caribaeum Griesebach, Fl. Br. W. I.(1864) 583, as to the Dominica plant.

Hymenocallis speciosa Salisbury in Trans. Hort. Soc. 1 (1812) 340.

Spider Lily, White Lily. — Ognon Dli, Ognon Gli (from the French: « ognon de lys »). — *kuléaka tirue* (« double »? « flower »).

The exact range of this Lesser Antillean species of Spider lily is uncertain but the plant grows wild in Dominica chiefly in moist soils at or near the mouths of streams.

Caribs express the juice of the large bulbs of ognon gli and [271] use the liquid as an emetic.

Specimen citation: 2729, 2951.

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[1] The « Langue Boeuf » of Bruton (?) probably pertains to the genus, *Carludovica*.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

fish from biting by causing their mouths to become soft. Corossol leaves are also boiled alone to produce a tea drunk by those with colds and fever, or by women in labour (parturition); the leaves are also used for bathing (adults or children).

Specimen citation: 398.

Annona reticulata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 537. 1753.

Custard Apple, Bullock's Heart. — Cachima, Cachima Coeur de Boeuf. — **alabólisa** (m), **karíma**.

This is another common West Indian species, varieties of which produce edible fruits.

The bark is employed by the Caribs to bandage sprains and dislocations; when so used it is kept moist with salt water. A tea is brewed from cachima leaves, together with the leaves of the pigeon pea [*Cajanus cājan* (L.) Millsp.], and this is drunk by individuals suffering from fever.

Specimen citation: 3358.

Annona squamosa Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 537. 1753.

Sweetsop, Sugar Apple. — Pomme Canelle. — **kalíbiri**.

Like the preceding species this small West Indian tree is widely cultivated for its edible fruit.

The leaves are made into a «tea», drunk as a supposed cure for a painful spleen (a common complaint among Caribs).

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Guatteria caribaea Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 240. 1905.

Guatteria europa Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 7, 1859, non Dunal.

Cananga caribaea Britton in Br. & Wils. Bot. P. R. (Sci. Surv. Puerto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 311. 1924.

Mabo (often spelled mahot, mahoe, or mahaut) Noir, Bois Violon.

A medium-sized forest tree found in Puerto Rico and recorded in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Grenada.

Bois violon possesses a good wood often made by the Caribs into boards. Young specimens of this species are also fashioned into masts for dugouts. The strong bark furnishes a rope fiber from which are constructed the halyards, etc., for sails. Such

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medicinally, as an insect repellant, for burning, and for soap and candle manufacture.

Carapate is a source of local timber, but to the present day Carib it is known principally as a « hunter's tree » because its fruit is much sought out by game birds. In the past the wood was used for canoes (see footnote [22]). Formerly an oil, much used both as a hair dressing and an insect-repelling constituent of roku (*Bixa orellana*) body paint, was made from the seeds; but castor oil from the seeds of *Ricinus communis* has now replaced it.

Specimen citation: 128 (T), 145 (T).

MALPHIGIACEAE. Malpighia Family.

Banisteria longifolia Swartz, Prodr. 75. 1788.
Heteropteris platyptera DeCandolle, Prodr. 1: 592. 1824.
Corde Caco, Cercle Caco, See Caco.

A woody liana of the Lesser Antilles.

The stout stems of corde caco are employed by the Caribs as binding edging for cassava sifters, shoulder carry-alls, tambours basques, and mats.

Specimen citation: 3167, 3270.

Byrsonima spicata (Cavendish) DeCandolle, Prodr. 1: 580. 1824.
Bois Tan [22], Moricypre, Moricypre Blanc (6). — *murói, muléi.*

This tree is common in moist forests throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America.

The even-grained timber of bois tan is used for posts and elsewhere on the island for furniture. The fruits are edible and are much sought after by game birds hence bois tan is known as a « hunter's tree ». As its vernacular name implies, there is contained in the bark a tannin which is sometimes used locally for preparing hides. When the Carib hunter desires to hunt agouti (*Dasyprocta* sp.) he first washes his dog (and sometimes himself) with a potion or « chance » made by macerating the bark of bois

[22] Not to be confused with another tree, *Pterocarpus portoricensis*, also called « tan », and also utilized by the Caribs.

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tan in water and to which crushed plants of *Hyptis atrorubens* are sometimes added. When the Carib hunts wild pig a potion is also made but from other plants — doctor bush (*Piper dilatatum*), malbruk (*Piper aequale*), and poivre marron (unidentified). These hunting potions supposedly insure success in the chase.

Specimen citation: 13 (T), 14 (T), 3163, 3409.

Stigmaphyllon puberum (L. C. Richard) A. Jussieu, Ann. Sci. Nat. ser. 2. 13: 289. 1840. 824X

Calabouli. — *kalábuli*.

A common vine of the West Indies and tropical continental America. In Dominica *kalábuli* occurs in thickets situated on the drier coastal areas.

The strong slender stems of this species are employed by the Caribs as binding material especially for tying thatching rods to the rafters in the construction of the native hut called *muéna*. [283]

Specimen citation: 18 (T), 3356.

POLYGALACEAE. Milkwort Family.

Polygala paniculata Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 1154. 1759.

Marcelle Fragile, Eata Fragile.

An annual herb of the West Indies and continental tropical America. The species occurs commonly in Dominica on grassy slopes, fields, and cleared areas.

The aromatic roots of marcelle fragile are boiled and the water thus obtained is used by the Carib for bathing himself or his dugout canoe in order to undo «piai» (bad luck spells) placed on them. [789]

Specimen citation: 35 (T), 433, 3385.

DICHAPETALACEAE. Dichapetalum Family.

Tapura antillana Gleason, North Am. Flora 25: 382. 1924.

Bois Côte.

A large tree to be found in the mountain rain forests of Guadeloupe, Dominica, and Martinique.

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SABIACEAE. Sabia Family.

Meliosma herbertii Rolfe, Kew Bull. 244. 1893.

Sept Ans.

Sept ans is a tree of the mountain forests of Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles.

[313] The wood of this species is said to be suitable for cabinet work, but the Carib of Dominica employs the timber chiefly for posts.

Specimen citation: 132 (T).

MALVACEAE. Mallow Family.

Gossypium spp.

Cotton. — Coton. — *tkɛlotopue, mɛ́ulu* (m) (*cf. Tupi amandiyu-ẽ*).

Several species of cotton are grown throughout the West Indies. At least one of these is native to the Americas for Columbus found the Tainos and Caribs growing cotton on many of the West India islands: « ... cotton plants as large as peach trees... » (69).

[248] The Caribs of Dominica cultivate two kinds of cotton which are to be found growing as arborescent shrubs near their dwellings. In some places the plants appear naturalized. The two types are known as coton noir (*G. vitifolium* Lam.) and coton blanc (*G. barbadense* L.).

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Most present day Caribs state that they can remember their grandmothers spinning cotton fiber. It was formerly spun by the following process. The cotton was picked and sun-dried for a day or so. Then it was gone over carefully and teased bit by bit into circular pads of about the same size which were then flattened between the palms of the hands. The pads were then piled one on top of the other thus forming a cylinder which was squeezed, folded, and stretched until it attained the required consistency. This cylinder was then twisted into a spiral and stretched carefully to the desired thickness. One end of the spiral was then attached to the hook at the end of a spindle[38], and the other end was

[38] This had a wooden shank about two and a half feet long, and a guard formed from a calabash or turtle shell.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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wound around the left wrist and forefinger. The spindle was set rotating by rolling its lower end (below the whorl) sharply down the thigh with the right hand. The thread thus spun was rolled onto the spindle-shank (above the guard) and the process recommenced. Cotton thread thus spun was used for weaving hammocks [39], head and leg bands [40], and more recently for mending clothes. Today cotton fiber is used principally for stuffing pillows and mattresses, and for calking canoes. However, a ritual bath, given to the mother after childbirth, utilized coton noir; it is discussed under *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 114 (T), 115 (T), 2541.

Hibiscus esculentus Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 696. 1753.
Abelmoschus esculentus Moench, Meth. 617. 1794.

Okra. — Gombo. — *inéin* (see also *Lonchocarpus* spp.).

A native of the Old World tropics, this species is widely cultivated. It was first recorded from the West Indies in 1750 (21), and is a familiar garden vegetable in Dominica.

Okra is either eaten as a vegetable or is used as an ingredient in a local soup known as «calalou». However, a Carib hunter must not put any gombo in the pot with the game he cooks or his dogs and gun would lose their power of taking any more game of that sort. The leaves are used as shampoo in washing the hair to promote growth. A superstition also exists that eaten gombo tops will cause one to meet the persons who have been speaking ill of one.

Specimen citation: 136 (T).

Hibiscus tiliaceus Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 694. 1753.
Hibiscus elatus Swartz, Prodr. 102. 1788.
Pariti tiliaceum St. Hilaire, Fl. Bras. Merid. 1: 256. 1827.

Mahoe. — Mahо (also spelled mahot, or mahaut) Doux. — *waiwi*, *wáiw*.

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[39] It is thought that the Island Caribs first introduced the cotton hammock into the Lesser Antilles from continental South America.

[40] Such articles were all listed by Chanca (69) in his famous letter, and it is interesting to note that certain of these are still woven by the Caribs of Guiana.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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This tree is a ubiquitous pantropical strand species.

Rope and twine are made from the fibrous bark which is sometimes used in calking[41] dugouts.

Specimen citation: 20 (T), 3381.

Sida spp.

Babé, Balié savane.

Several species (*S. carpinifolia* L. f., *S. cordifolia* L., *S. rhombifolia* L., etc.) of this weedy, semi-woody tropical genus grow commonly along roadsides or in waste places in Dominica.

Crude brooms are made by binding together a number of uprooted plants of balié. With the stiff roots of these the Carib sweeps either his red clay yard or the floor of his house.

Specimen citation: 545, 546, 547, 548, 3373.

Urena spp.

Mabo (also spelled mahot, maboe, or mahaut) Cousin. — *matérebe.*

Two shrubby, weedy species of this genus (*U. sinuata* L., and *U. lobata* L.) are found in waste places throughout the tropical regions of the world.

The Carib does not distinguish between these two species but calls them both mabo cousin. The expressed juice of the pounded bark is taken as a cure for dysentery. The whole plant is brewed to make a tea used against cough.

Specimen citation: 1 (T), 2927.

BOMBACACEAE. Silk-Cotton Tree Family.

Ceiba pentandra (Linnaeus) Gaertner, Fr. & Sem. 2: 244. 1791.

Eriodendron anfractuosum DeCandolle, Prodr. 1: 479. 1824.

Ceiba caribaea A. Chevalier, Rev. Bot. Appl. 17: 188, 266. 1937.

Kapok, Silk Cotton Tree. — Fromager. — *kumaka.*

This giant buttressed species is a conspicuous tree of the American tropics. In Dominica fromager grows as scattered indi-

[41] When so used it is mixed with gomme (= gum elemi =, *Dacryodes excelsa*) boiled in shark oil.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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A rather small tree of the West Indies and continental tropical America. In Dominica it occurs at lower and middle elevations.

The light-yellow flecked wood of this species has a characteristic odor of curry powder. West Indian swizzle-sticks are generally made from the whorled twigs of this tree, and although such utensils are more popularly known as necessary accessories in the mixing of rum punches, they also have other domestic uses.

The Caribs of Dominica employ swizzle-sticks in the mixing of such daily necessities as chocolate beverages, calalou soup, and cassereep or tumali sauce.

Specimen citation: 109 (T).

STERCULIACEAE. Cocoa-Tree Family.

Sterculia caribaea R. Brown in Benn. Pl. Jav. Rar. 228. 1844.
Mabot (also spelled mabo, mahoe, or mahaut) Cochon.

A familiar tree in Dominica at middle elevations, this species is found also in Jamaica, and in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad and the Guianas.

Planks split (not sawn) from the very light timber are used by the Island Caribs to build up the sides of cheaply constructed dugouts (gommier is used in the better canoes). An inferior rope is made from the fibrous bark for rough and ready use, tying cattle, etc. The same fiber, mixed with gomme (« gum elemi », *Dacryodes excelsa*), boiled in shark oil, is employed in calking dugouts.

Specimen citation: 541, 3462.

Theobroma cacao Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 782. 1753.
Cacao, Cocoa-Tree. — kábu.

Cacao, a native of continental tropical America, is widely cultivated in the world's tropics. In Dominica the species is commonly grown as a commercial crop in the sheltered river valleys and moist ravines.

The seeds (known as « nibs »), first roasted, shelled, and pounded in a wooden mortar are then emulsified by the Caribs in boiling water (milk is hardly used !) as a breakfast food. Formerly piment

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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This tree is recorded in the West Indies from Jamaica and Hispaniola through the Lesser Antilles to Trinidad. In Dominica the species is most frequent on lower slopes along the windward coast.

A yellow milky sap is found in the wood of bois chica, and is employed by the Caribs to heal cracked or fissured feet. The ellipsoidal fruits are edible and are sought out particularly by the Indian children.

Specimen citation : 3178, 3360.

Symphonia globulifera Linnaeus filius, Suppl. 302. 1781. Yellow Mang. — Mang (sometimes spelled Mangle) Blanc, Mang Jaune. — *kulára*.

This stilt-rooted tree of the wet mountain forests of Dominica is known from tropical continental America as well as from Jamaica, Hispaniola, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad.

The Caribs use the timber of mang blanc as a source of shingles, boards, and the like. A yellowish gummy resin is also found in the wood of this species. The gum is hard and friable after contact with the air and has been used by Indian tribes of continental South America for torches, as a calking material, and as a cement to fix fishbone points to the shafts of their arrows (18).

A pitch-like resin, called *mani*, obtained from the wood of the closely related *Moronobea coccinea* Aublet of the continental tropics of America, is similarly used by aborigines of the basins of the Orinoco and Amazon rivers. For example, ROTH (43) refers to *mani* and its use in his discussion of the Indians of Guiana. Curiously, a blackish resin, also called *mani*, is employed by the Caribs of Dominica for strengthening home-made la pite (*Ananas*) twine [40]. It was first thought, since *Moronobea coccinea* does not occur in Dominica, that the local *mani* was derived from the yellow resin of mang blanc (*Symphonia*) but this is apparently not the case. Lumps of *mani* are always collected along the windward beaches where they are apparently tossed by the sea at certain seasons, particularly during « Carême » (February to

[40] *Mani* is put to a use similar to that which beeswax performs in sewing

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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CACTACEAE. Cactus Family.

Opuntia dillenii (Ker-Gawl.) Haworth, Suppl. Pl. Succ. 79. 1819. Prickly Pear. — Raquette. — *báta, páta.*

This species of coastal sands and rocks is to be found on most shores bordering on the Caribbean, from Florida to northern South America.

Apparently on the wetter windward coast of Dominica raquette seldom sets fruit but elsewhere on the island the fruit is eaten and is used in the preparation of a culinary dye.

The Caribs employ the fleshy joints in their treatment of enlarged or painful spleen. This treatment, called « haler la rate », consists of local manipulation and massage with the hand and with leaves of *Ricinus communis*. A raquette joint the exact size of the right foot (the side opposite the location of the pain) is found, is deprived of its prickles so that it can be made to fit the foot and is then punctured all over and hung over a fire to dry and shrink. As the joint shrinks the spleen is supposed to shrink likewise and to assume its normal size.

Specimen citation: 3814.

THYMELAEACEAE. Mezereon Family.

Daphnopsis caribaea Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 278. 1860. Mabo (often spelled mabot, mahoe, or mahaut) Piment.

This medium-sized tree is a native of Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles. In Dominica it is common in thickets or woodland borders at lower and middle elevations.

The rope and twine made from the tough fibrous bark are considered by the Carib inferior to that fashioned from mabot doux (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*). However mabo piment rope is used more frequently than any other for hauling dugout canoes from the interior forests to the coast. The fiber is also infrequently employed in calking canoes[46]. A tea is made from the leaves of mabo piment, and is used in a bath which will supposedly loosen any « spell » under which a person has been placed. Another tea is

[46] When so used it is mixed with gomme (« gum elemi », *Dacryodes excelsa*) boiled in shark oil.

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Fig. 34

Fig. 35

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Fig. 36

Dominica Carib plants. — Fig. 34 - Flowers and foliage of male-dwarf, *Malvaviscus blanchetianus*, whose fibrous bark is made into crude rope and twine. — Fig. 35. Flowers and foliage of bois flot, *Cochlospermum parviflorum*, source of stuffing material for pillows and mattresses. — Fig. 36 Opened fruits of pawpaw, *Bixa orellana*, whose arillate seeds are the source of an important aboriginal dye. (All photographs except that of *Bixa orellana* courtesy of Paul B. Allen).

[Opposite p. 595]

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	Chrysophyllum argenteum Jacq.	Sapotaceae
	Dacryodes excelsa Vahl	Burseraceae
	Daphnopsis caribaea Griseb.	Thymeliaceae
	Guatteria caribaea Urb.	Annonaceae
	Hibiscus tiliaceus L.	Malvaceae
	Sterculia caribaea R. Br.	Sterculiaceae
	Tabebuia pallida (Lindl.) Miers	Bignoniaceae
	Tapura antillana Gleason	Dichapetalaceae

Plant sources of Cordage or Twine

	Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.	Bromeliaceae
	Bambusa vulgaris Schrad.	Gramineae
	Daphnopsis caribaea Griseb.	Thymeliaceae
	Furcraea tuberosa Ait. f.	Amaryllidaceae
	Gossypium barbadense L.	Malvaceae
	Gossypium vitifolium Lam.	Malvaceae
	Hibiscus tiliaceus L.	Malvaceae
	Sterculia caribaea R. Br.	Sterculiaceae
	Stigmaphyllon puberum (L. C. Rich.) A. Juss.	Malphigiaceae

Plant sources of Dyes, Pigments, or Tannins

	Anacardium occidentale L.	Anacardiaceae
	Bixa orellana L.	Bixaceae
	Byrsonima spicata (Cav.) DC.	Malphigiaceae
	Cornutia pyramidata L.	Verbenaceae
	Curcuma longa L.	Zingiberaceae
	Dacryodes excelsa Vahl	Burseraceae
	Genipa americana L.	Rubiaceae
	Heliconia bihai L.	Musaceae
	Heliconia caribaea Lam.	Musaceae
	Picramnia pentandra Sw.	Simaroubaceae

Plant sources of Fish Drugs

	Clibadium sylvestre (Aubl.) Baill.	Compositae
	Diospyros ebenaster Retz.	Ebenaceae
	Lonchocarpus benthamianus Pittier	Leguminosae
	Lonchocarpus latifolius (Willd.) H. B. K.	Leguminosae
	Neurolaena lobata (L.) R. Br.	Compositae
	Piscidia piscipula (Willd.) Urb.	Leguminosae

Plant sources of Food or Beverage

	Acrocomia aculeata (Jacq.) Lodd.	Palmae
	Alpinia purpurata (Ruiz & Pav.) K. Schum.	Zingiberaceae
	Alpinia sp.	Palmae